

the Nation in congratulating him as he finishes his term as chairman of the Big I.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA-DAKOTAS KIWANIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District Convention.

Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to serving the children of the world. With a motto of "One Child and one Community at a time," Kiwanis members dedicate more than 18 million volunteer hours and invest more than \$107 million in projects that strengthen communities and serve children. These projects include helping shelter the homeless, feeding the hungry, mentoring the disadvantaged, caring for the sick, developing the youth as leaders, building playgrounds, raising funds for pediatric research, and much more.

Today the Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis has over 4,000 members. With a club slogan of "Serving the children of the World," the chapter supports a range of programs, including Kiwanis Kids—elementary students—Builder's Club—middle school students—Key Club—high school students—and Circle K—college students. In addition, the chapter supports Aktion clubs for adults with disabilities. These programs allow our youth and adults to build character, leadership skills and learn more about themselves and their communities.

I congratulate the Kiwanis International Minnesota-Dakotas District of Kiwanis International on their 100th convention and thank them for their leadership and dedication to children and to their communities. May they continue to thrive for the 100 years to come.●

REMEMBERING ELIJAH "YOCKIE" DELEE

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the life of a great South Carolinian and American veteran, Mr. Elijah "Yockie" DeLee, who departed this life on July 20, 2017.

Elijah was a lifelong resident of Dorchester County, SC, where he worked tirelessly as a beloved deacon at Surprise Baptist Church. He was drafted into the Vietnam war shortly after graduating high school and showed perseverance until he was honorably discharged. He possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and followed his passion for drag racing to help open South Carolina's first minority-owned dragway: Dorchester Dragway. He continued his business endeavors with the opening of DeLee One Trucking Company, still a staple in Dorchester today. In success, Elijah always exemplified respect, humility, and generosity.

For many in Dorchester, he will be remembered for his relentless spirit, tenacity for life, and heart for people. He never met a stranger and was always eager to lend a helping hand. Yockie loved and adored his family, and next to God and his faith, they were always his top priority in life. He was a true provider, mediator, demonstrator, and imitator of Godly character. He will surely be missed among family, friends, and the community of Dorchester as a great American and South Carolinian.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEW LIGHT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor New Light Beulah Baptist Church in Hopkins, SC, for their 150th anniversary, which will be celebrated on August 11 to 13, 2017.

New Light Beulah Baptist Church was established in 1867 when 665 African-American members of Beulah Baptist Church chose to separate from the White members and began independent rule. Despite the sanctuary burning to the ground in 1916, the church thrived and expanded. Since then, several other churches have been formed out of New Light Beulah Baptist. In 2015, the members accepted Dr. Malcolm Taylor as their pastor, and over 360 members call New Light Beulah their place of worship today.

In August 2017, New Light Beulah Baptist Church will be the first African-American church in the lower Richland community to be registered in the National Register of Historic Places. The church has remained committed to its mission, and I encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the rich history of the church and its contribution to the Palmetto State. I acknowledge and celebrate the church's 150 years of independence as a congregation faithfully serving their community.●

REMEMBERING HORACE MERRILL

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Horace Sellers Merrill of Micaville, AL, who passed away on February 17, 2017. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant who worked faithfully for the citizens of Alabama. He was committed to bettering his community and State through his public service and involvement in the community.

Mr. Merrill began a career with the Dixie Mines Mica Mining Company in the late 1950s before entering Alabama politics. In 1964, he was elected circuit clerk of Cleburne County, a position he held for 12 years. Following his term as circuit clerk, Mr. Merrill was elected probate judge and chairman of the Cleburne County Commission, where he served for 6 years.

Mr. Merrill will be remembered for his leadership in completing the Alabama welcome center and rest area on

Interstate 20, as well as his efforts to utilize the Dyne Creek watershed to service the citizens of Cleburne County with a countywide water system.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Merrill was a very active member of his community. He served as president of the Lions Club, the Jaycees, and the local Athletics Boosters Club. In his earlier years, Mr. Merrill was an accomplished athlete. He lettered in both baseball and football and then attended Southern Union Junior College on an athletic scholarship. He later served as the announcer for Little League and junior high football games in Cleburne County and helped organize the first youth baseball program in Heflin.

Additionally, Mr. Merrill was a longtime member in the Cleburne Baptist Association, serving as an officer and pastor of several churches. A member of Heflin Baptist Church for more than 50 years, Mr. Merrill served as a deacon, a Sunday school teacher, Sunday school superintendent, church training director, and sanctuary choir member.

Horace's many accomplishments and contributions to the State of Alabama will long be remembered. He touched the lives of many over the years, and he will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Horace's wife, Mary, and to all of their loved ones as they celebrate his life and mourn this great loss.●

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWEST MONTANA CHAPTER OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Vietnam Veterans of America and the work Mr. John Burgess and the local Flathead Valley chapter has done on behalf of his fellow veterans of the Vietnam war.

During that war, more than 2.5 million Americans fought bravely in service to their country. While more than 58,000 of those men and women gave the ultimate sacrifice, many more endured and are still here with us today. However, it has not been an easy road for these veterans. For far too long, veterans of the Vietnam war have received neither the recognition nor the benefits that they truly deserved.

As ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, it has been my honor to fight for legislation that rectifies this oversight like the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that would allow veterans who served in the waters offshore during the Vietnam war to also be eligible for service-connected disability benefits as a result of agent orange exposure. I have also proudly sponsored the Toxic Exposure Research Act which increases research into the health conditions of descendants of veterans who were exposed to toxins during their military service, particularly those exposed to the herbicide agent orange during the Vietnam war.

Honoring these veterans takes more than just legislation; it takes dedicated

people who are committed to telling their stories and honoring those who have served. The local northwest Montana chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America in the Flathead Valley, which now has more than 100 members, has been an important partner working to ensure veterans who fought in the Vietnam war are receiving the care, honor, and distinction they have earned.

The Vietnam Veterans of America has become an invaluable part of the community, hosting bingo events at the Montana veterans home, providing residents and staff with an annual picnic, helping with many ceremonies, and working with the Flathead Valley Community College Veterans with a scholarship for veteran students.

John Burgess and the northwest Montana chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America are carrying on this legacy of service September 7 to 10 with the arrival of the traveling Vietnam veterans memorial wall in Kalispell. Through "Bringing the Wall that Heals," countless Vietnam veterans and their families will be presented with an opportunity to find peace and closure while honoring those we have lost in service. This special event helps mark the 35th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

On Veterans Day of 1996, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund unveiled a half-scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, designed to travel to communities throughout the United States. Since its dedication, the "Wall That Heals" has visited more than 400 cities and towns throughout the Nation, spreading the memorial's healing legacy to millions.

To John, the northwest Montana chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and all those who dedicated their lives to this country in service, on behalf of myself, Montana, and our Nation, I extend my greatest thanks for your enduring bravery, service, and self-sacrifice.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE S. HAERLE

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize, with the highest respect, the service and life of George Shepard Haerle for his dedication to serving Indiana and the Nora Community Council, NCC. Over the course of NCC's 50-year history, George has volunteered 47 years of his own to leave an indelible mark on the Nora community. The great State of Indiana is proud of and ever thankful for George's distinguished commitment and exemplary service.

Since its founding, the Nora Community Council has covered 12 square miles with 25,000 to 28,000 Hoosier residents, including 60 local neighborhoods under the civic umbrella. As a chairman of the NCC, George commits hundreds of hours each year to promote growth, development, and the general welfare of the Nora community.

George Haerle's renowned service was rightfully recognized on July 29, 2017, when Governor Eric Holcomb bestowed upon him Indiana's most prestigious designation, a Sagamore of the Wabash. George follows in the footsteps of his father, Rudolf K. Haerle, who was also recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash for his contributions to the State as the first president of the Civil War Round Table and a former long-time member of the Library Board of the Indiana Historical Society.

George has not only been a role model for the NCC, but he has also been an outstanding advocate for the community of Nora-Northside. His remarkable service is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family, including 7 daughters, 1 son, and 18 grandchildren. On behalf of myself and all Hoosiers, for his selfless and lifelong commitment, George is worthy of the highest praise. I feel truly privileged to have him as a fellow and lifelong Hoosier.●

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP NO. 533

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to pause and recognize the accomplishments of Boy Scout Troop No. 533 from my home State of Indiana. For the past 90 years, Boy Scout Troop No. 533 in Munster, IN, has been instilling the values of respect, honesty, and leadership in young Hoosiers that have had a lasting impact on our State. I am very proud of troop No. 533 for all of their service over the past 90 years and applaud their dedication to bettering their community.

Boy Scout Troop No. 533 was formed in 1927 by Munster native Mr. Muary Kraay when he was in eighth grade. Since its founding, troop No. 533 has been active in their community. During World War II, the Boy Scouts organized parades and rallies for war bonds, planted community gardens, practiced blackout drills, and participated in wartime recycling programs. On June 14, 1947, when President Coolidge dedicated Wicker Park in Highland, IN, troop No. 533 was there to welcome him. The Boy Scouts also had a crucial role during the September 2008 flooding of the Little Calumet River. In anticipation of the flood, troop No. 533 assisted in filling sandbags, and after the flood, they assisted in yard cleanup and regravelling driveways. Over the past 90 years, Boy Scout Troop No. 533 has produced over 100 Eagle Scouts, one of the highest levels of honor a Boy Scout can achieve.

I would like to thank Boy Scout Troop No. 533 for their 90 years of outstanding public service. On behalf of all Hoosiers, congratulations on your 90th anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1757. A bill to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1359. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-144).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1057. A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-145).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 870. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to implement Medicare payment policies designed to improve management of chronic disease, streamline care coordination, and improve quality outcomes without adding to the deficit (Rept. No. 115-146).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1393. A bill to streamline the process by which active duty military, reservists, and veterans receive commercial driver's licenses.

S. 1532. A bill to disqualify from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life an individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving human trafficking.

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1536. A bill to designate a human trafficking prevention coordinator and to expand the scope of activities authorized under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's outreach and education program to include human trafficking prevention activities, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Jay Patrick Murray, of Virginia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States of America for Special Political Affairs in